



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



HOTTEL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Volunteers who donated to the VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) "Hoptel" – a free, temporary, overnight housing unit for veterans undergoing treatment at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center – had a chance to tour the housing unit for the first time, on October 17. The lodging unit officially opened its doors on September 4 and has consistently been at least 75 percent full.

Many VABHHCS Veterans must travel more than 50 miles to the Medical Center and free, temporary lodging can be a true haven. Some veterans may stay for weeks, receiving chemotherapy or radiation. Others stay for the night to ensure their timely arrival for tests or surgery the next day.

In December 2010, the VABHHCS received funding for the conversion of a four-bedroom quarters building on the Fort Meade campus into a Veterans' Hoptel – transitory, overnight lodging for veterans undergoing treatment at the Fort Meade campus, with one bedroom reserved for women veterans and their attendants, spouses or children, as appropriate.

The Hoptel includes a bed, bath, linen, soap and towels and access to a central food preparation and dining area. Lodging can be provided when a patient has an appointment and, as a result of irregular shuttles or inclement weather, the veteran's tests or exams are not scheduled until the following work day or reporting of tests cannot be completed prior to appointment. Veterans who must travel more than 50 miles to the Fort Meade VA Medical Center are eligible for lodging.



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DEADLINE NEARS FOR DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS

Veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-related injury have only a short time left to apply for a program that grants them a partial exemption on their South Dakota property taxes.

Eligible veterans or unmarried surviving spouses of eligible veterans wanting to take part in the Property Tax Reduction for Disabled Veterans Program must apply on or before Nov. 1 to their county assessor. The program exempts the first \$100,000 of valuation of a disabled veteran's property from property taxes.

For the purposes of the program, property is defined as the house (including manufactured and mobile homes), garage, and the lot upon which it sits, or one acre, whichever is less. Because the budgets and tax levies for the property taxes payable in 2013 have already been set, veterans eligible for this program will first see the reduction in their property taxes payable in 2014.

To be eligible, the veteran must have been rated permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability(ies). Applicants will be required to provide proof of their eligibility.

Applications are now available from county assessors and the Division of Property and Special Taxes. For more information, call the South Dakota Department of Revenue's toll-free helpline at 1-800-829-9188 and select option "2" for the Division of Property and Special Taxes.



HOLIDAY TOURS AT GOVERNOR'S MANSION

First Lady Linda Daugaard announced today that public tours to view Christmas finery at the Governor's Mansion will be offered on two Mondays in December.

"The Governor's Mansion is beautiful during the holiday season, and Dennis and I would like to share that with all South Dakotans," the First Lady said. "We are so very fortunate to live in this home, but it really belongs to all of us."

The holiday tours are scheduled for Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. Six tours will be conducted each day (9 a.m.; 10 a.m.; 11 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 2 p.m.; 3 p.m.).

Those wishing to take the Governor's Mansion tours must obtain tickets (free) in advance from the Pierre Chamber of Commerce. There is a limit of 40 people per tour.

The Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 605-224-7361.



PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT VETERANS

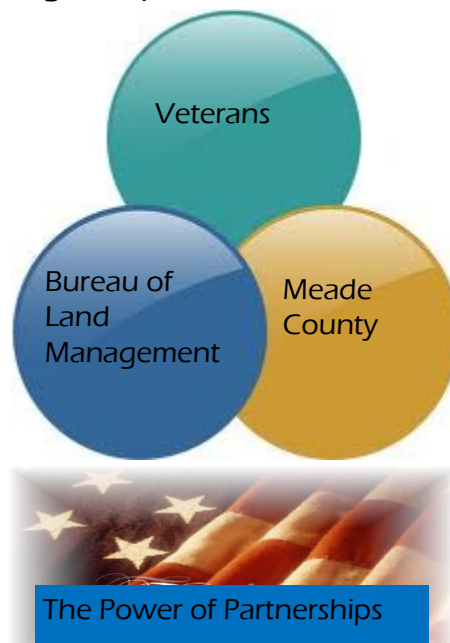
The Meade County Board of Commissioners expand a cooperative initiative with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - in an effort to hire veterans.

The "Veteran in the Woods" initiative is funded by the BLM and will fall under Meade County's current Firewise program. The primary goal of this Community Wildfire Protection effort is to reduce the risk from wildfire to life, property, and critical infrastructure. Meade County and Lawrence County will share the \$125,000 grant received from BLM.

Veterans will be hired and trained to facilitate this effort by working with private landowners on the education and implementation of fire/fuel mitigation efforts. The primary scope of work will find the veterans being trained on cutting, thinning, and removing trees on private land while at the same time educating the public on the need for same.

Meade County is vested in working with current and returning veterans who are entering back into the private sector after serving our country.

Veterans who want to be considered are asked to fill out a Meade County employment application form and submit same to the Meade County Human Resource Office, 1300 Sherman Street, STE 212, Sturgis, SD 57785. Applications are available at: www.meadecounty.org via the Human Resources Office webpage. Veterans can also contact Meade County Veterans Service Officer Angella Sutton with questions about the program (605-720-1625).



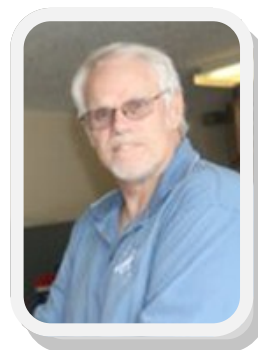
DAV SELECTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of the Disabled America Veterans (DAV) of South Dakota and Arthur H. Muchow Chapter has appointed Ken Laughlin as executive director for both the DAV Department and the Chapter effective October 15, 2012.

Ken will assist both the DAV and the Chapter while maintaining and improving their mission of building better lives for all disabled veterans and their families. Ken comes to DAV from the North Central Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America where he served as their Government Relations Director. Ken currently serves as the commander for Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1.

Ken's expertise lies in the areas of working with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), public relations, and the legislative arena.

Ken holds a Bachelor's Degree in System Technology from Dakota State University, Madison, SD. He also received his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Sioux Falls.



VETERANS VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

October 31, 2012

1-4PM EST

www.veteranrecruiting.com[Video Tour Click Here](#)

Groundbreaking recruiting event that will connect industry leading employers with veterans with service related disabilities nationwide in one day.

Why Virtual?

- We bring the career fair to you
- Explore opportunities nationwide
- Save time, money, energy
- Free to register and participate

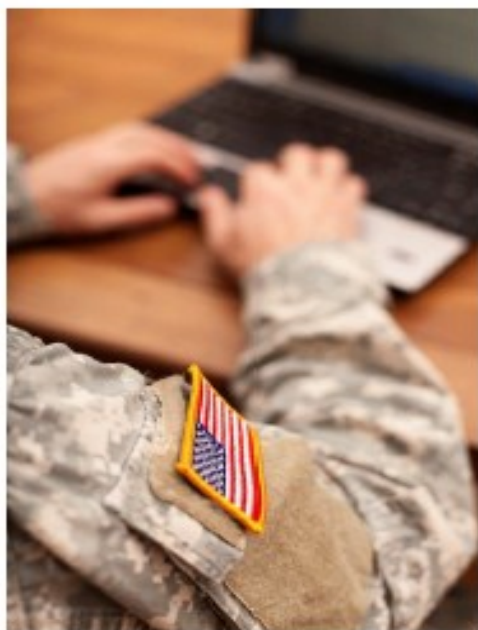
How does it work?

- You register www.veteranrecruiting.com
- You build a profile
- Upload your resume
- Research the employers
- View/apply for jobs
- Chat with recruiters in their booths
- All from the comfort of home
- Employers will set up follow up interviews

VISIT EMPLOYER BOOTHS



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR KEY SPONSORS



In Cooperation with:



REGISTER TODAY WWW.VETERANRECRUITING.COM

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERANS

PBS and Capital Concerts will broadcast the *National Salute to Veterans*, on PBS Sunday, November 11, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. ET, in honor of the service and sacrifice of our 22 million American veterans. Hosted by acclaimed actors Joe Mantegna ("Criminal Minds") and Gary Sinise ("CSI: New York"), the national television event celebrates the American heroes who have served throughout our country's history. The program will also be broadcast to our troops serving around the world on the American Forces Network.

The one-hour program is produced by Capital Concerts and will bring together distinguished American leaders, artists and performers in celebration of those who have served and sacrificed so much for their country.

Featured segments in the *National Salute to Veterans* will include:

- A special thank you to our troops who have been serving in Iraq and Afghanistan by General Colin Powell;
- A heartfelt tribute to our wounded warriors for their bravery and service to country;
- A look at how veterans and their families are coping with the enduring, and often invisible, wounds of war; and
- The touching story of the healing friendship between a young woman and a Vietnam veteran who served with her father.



VETERANS DAY—A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE OUR YOUTH ON THE SACRIFICES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE

Veterans Day is a great opportunity to teach students about the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

To help educators make the most of this opportunity, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Veterans Day National Committee have developed a teacher's resource guide with suggested activities for students of all ages. The guide may be viewed and downloaded from the Veterans Day Website at <http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>.

Feel free to share this information with teachers in your communities.

For Teachers & Students

- [2012 Teachers Guide](#)
- [508 Compliant 2012 Teachers Guide](#)
- [Veterans Day History](#)
- [Poster Gallery](#)
- [Take a Vet to School Day](#)
- [Veterans History Project](#)
- [Veterans Day Speakers](#)
- [Volunteering at VA](#)

Upcoming Events

Oct. 26—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Wagner CBOC (400 W. Hwy 46) —12:30 pm—4:30 pm
Oct. 31—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Aberdeen CBOC (2301 8th Ave NE—Suite 225) 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Oct. 31—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—SF VA Medical Center (2501 W. 22nd St) —11:00 am—5:00 pm
Nov. 1—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—Watertown CBOC (917 29th St SE) —9:00 am—4:00 pm
Nov. 3-4—DOD Yellow Ribbon 30-Day Reintegration Event for the 842nd, 451st Fire Fighters and DET 48—Spearfish High School
Nov. 5—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—SF VA Medical Center (2501 W. 22nd St) —7:30 am—5:30 pm
Nov. 9—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—SF VA Medical Center (2501 W. 22nd St) —7:30 am—5:30 pm
Nov. 11—Veterans Day
Nov. 12—Veterans Day Regional Site Program—Riggs High School Theatre—Pierre—10:45 am
Nov. 14 —SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street
Nov. 15 —SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street
Nov. 16 —SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings – City/County Building, 520 3rd Street
Nov. 26—SFVAHCS Flu Shot Clinic—SF VA Medical Center (2501 W. 22nd St) —7:30 am—5:30 pm
Dec. 8—Wreaths Across America

UPCOMING EVENTS

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